

# **Responding to Alcohol and Other Drug Problems in Child Welfare: Weaving Together Practice and Policy**

*Nancy K. Young*

*Sidney L. Gardner*

*Kimberly Dennis*



Office of Juvenile Justice and  
Delinquency Prevention

---

CWLA Press • Washington, DC

CWLA Press is an imprint of the Child Welfare League of America. The Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) is a privately supported, non-profit, membership-based organization committed to preserving, protecting, and promoting the well-being of all children and their families. Believing that children are our most valuable resource, CWLA, through its membership, advocates for high standards, sound public policies, and quality services for children in need and their families.

© 1998 by the Child Welfare League of America, Inc. All rights reserved. Neither this book nor any part may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, microfilming, and recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher. For information on this or other CWLA publications, contact the CWLA Publications Department at the address below.

CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA, INC.  
440 First Street, NW, Third Floor, Washington, DC 20001-2085  
e-mail: books@cwla.org

CURRENT PRINTING (last digit)  
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Cover design by Shelley Furgason

Printed in the United States of America

ISBN # 0-87868-736-X

This project was supported by Grant No. 98-JN-FX-K001 from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

# Contents

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Preface .....   | v   |
| Acknowledgments .....   | vii |
| Introduction .....  | ix  |
| 1 Facing the Problem .....  | 1   |
| 2 Seeking Solutions .....   | 27  |
| 3 Lessons of the Models .....   | 51  |
| 4 Treating AOD Problems: Practices, Innovations,<br>and Effectiveness .....   | 77  |
| 5 Assessment: Bridging Child Welfare and<br>AOD Services .....  | 111 |
| 6 Beyond the Boundaries of Child Welfare:<br>Connecting with Welfare, Juvenile Justice, Family<br>Violence, and Mental Health Systems ..... | 131 |
| 7 Building the Future: Recommendations .....  | 149 |
| Appendix A: Collaborative Values Inventory .....  | 163 |
| Appendix B: A Dialogue on Practice and Policy .....   | 167 |
| Appendix C: Review Panel .....  | 173 |
| Appendix D: CWLA's Chemical Dependency and<br>Child Welfare Task Force .....  | 175 |
| About the Authors .....   | 179 |

## List of Tables

|           |   |     |
|-----------|---|-----|
| Table 1.  | Paths of Exposure to Alcohol and Other Drug Use ....                                    | 3   |
| Table 2.  | Model Strategies and the Policy Framework .....   | 28  |
| Table 3.  | Results of Adjusting Intensity and<br>Severity of Treatment .....                       | 80  |
| Table 4.  | Therapeutic Approaches to AOD Treatment .....   | 82  |
| Table 5.  | Phases in the Change Process .....  | 87  |
| Table 6.  | Comparison of Length of Stay in Treatment .....   | 92  |
| Table 7.  | Sources of Referral .....   | 92  |
| Table 8.  | Drugs Used by Women in Study .....  | 92  |
| Table 9.  | Critical Variables Affecting Treatment Outcomes .....                                   | 98  |
| Table 10. | Adolescent Program Model .....  | 104 |
| Table 11. | The Phases of the Screening and Assessment<br>Process .....                             | 119 |
| Table 12. | Assessment Processes with AOD Considerations ...  | 126 |
| Table 13. | Similarities and Differences in Approaches to<br>Family Violence and AOD Problems ..... | 142 |
| Table 14. | Recommendations for Policy and Practice<br>Changes .....                                | 150 |
| Table 15. | Proposed Training Agendas .....   | 154 |